

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

February 26, 2008  
Minutes

The Board of Selectmen met on Tuesday, February 26, 2008 in the Town Hall Clark Room. Those present were Selectmen Timothy F. Hult, William R. Tice, Jr., Alan Carpenito, John D. Williams, and Mr. Stevenson and Town Administrator Madonna J. McKenzie.

### Town Administrator Report

Mrs. McKenzie reported that the Town has received permission from the Dept. of Revenue to pay the \$216,300.06 (plus interest, which totals over \$300,000.) Benfield judgment, under M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 31.

Mrs. McKenzie asked the Board to sign the agreement with USI Consulting Group, Inc. for the Actuarial Services related to the Financial Reporting of Other Post Employment Benefits. On a motion made by Mr. Tice and seconded by Mr. Williams, it was unanimously **VOTED** to approve the contract with USI Consulting Group, Inc., not to exceed \$6,500.00 with an option for a second year, not to exceed \$6,500.00.

Mrs. McKenzie presented a letter to the Board regarding the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. On a motion made by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Stevenson, it was unanimously **VOTED** to approve the letter to David Mohler, Executive Office of Transportation, dated February 26, 2008, indicating the Town's support of the enhancement funding application for the final engineering of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, to be signed by Timothy Hult, chair of Board of Selectmen.

### Community Input

Mr. Williams said he had received some feed back from the Planning Board regarding the wind turbines. He said that by placing the warrant article relating to Revision to Zoning Bylaws, 4.7 Intensity and Dimensional Requirements, Height Exceptions, we have put the Planning Board in a box. It seems that the rules would endanger the enforcement of the bylaws that we have for the cell towers. Mr. Williams said in regard to safety, the bylaws are conflicting with the cell towers. He said we are only able to regulate aesthetics and safety, and the problem is that the height of the wind mills would potentially jeopardize those bylaws and we would we therefore be opening ourselves to a successful challenge by the cell towers. Mr. Williams said that the Selectmen were being asked to withdraw the petition that they made on February 12<sup>th</sup> and to form a task force, or place a moratorium with a task force study group in place. Mr. Williams said it has been requested not only wind turbines be included, but also other non-carbon producing sources of energy. He was in agreement with this request.

Mr. Hult and Mrs. McKenzie gave a brief history of the events that led to this point, beginning with the first building permit application for a wind turbine.

Michael Epstein from the Planning Board spoke briefly about the wind turbines and wireless mono-poles and the difference between the heights. He suggested getting a group of people together to consider the different ramifications and consequences that other Towns have had with wind turbines. He said Greg Peterson suggested the moratorium on windmills to avoid issues. Michael said the Planning Board is not against windmills; they just want them allowed in a thoughtful manner. Mr. Hult said there are three (3) choices. He

said we could withdraw our proposal and do nothing or proceed with the process we are doing right now, and that is going to Town Meeting with a potential bylaw change. He said we could also do what the Planning Board is suggesting, which is to take time out and look at perhaps an alternative energy bylaw. Mr. Hult asked the Board if they wanted to put this decision off until the next meeting. After discussion and comments, the Board decided to meet on March 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss this matter again. In reply to Mr. Hult's request a member of the Planning Board member will also come to that meeting.

#### **Pedestrian and Bike Safety Advisory Committee – Hanover Hill**

Deb Belanger was present to talk about the pathways from Westford Street to Virginia Farm Lane. She said while working in that area they were looking at pathways within the Hanover Hill Development. She spoke specifically about beyond the Hanover Hill Development on the southward boundary on Westford Street from what will be the newly developed Johnson Drive to Virginia Farm Lane. Deb said this would be a new length. Deb continued to say that on the northern side of the development there is a second length that is being discussed that would extend to and along Curve Street. She noted that this would be built within the developers land. Deb said the reason the Pathways Committee was here tonight was the former length; that is, the southern bound part which is Johnson Drive to Virginia Farm. She said when the pathway leaves the development it enters or leads into a town right of way. In order for the Planning Board to include that it in the scope of pathway, it needs prior consent from the Board of Selectmen.

Deb said they were asking for the Boards permission to investigate this proposal further and to come back to Board of Selectmen for their approval, perhaps early in March. Deb noted that this is an ideal connection. The Board agreed to allow the committee to investigate the proposal further and report their findings at the Board of Selectmen meeting scheduled on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Long Term Capital Requirements – Budget**

Don Rober was present from the Long Term Capital Requirements Committee. He thanked the Town Departments for their consideration in keeping their expectations small this year. He talked about the Committee's priorities, which were health and safety, maintenance of existing infrastructure, and new initiatives. Don said they were working with a budget of \$229,500.00. Don spoke about the Departments, explaining their requests and how they were managed. He said that this year the High School did not have any capital initiatives. In regard to the DPW, he said the roof on Gary's building would last another year. Don said the ambulance will be replaced through the ambulance fund. In regard to the Fire Department, \$15,000 will go toward a portable tank. Don said the generator will be replaced next year. He said protective clothing will be replaced at \$6,500 and pagers will be replaced at \$5,000.00. A new cruiser will be purchased for the Police Department. The Police Department was also in line for digital radios, radar units (4) and new holsters. Don said that the boiler will have to last another year. The ADA fund for Town Hall was depleted last year, so it will be replaced at \$5,000.00.

Don spoke about the items for the Carlisle Public School. He said that the bleachers were in hazardous condition, so they have to be refurbished at a cost of \$8,000.00. The Spalding roof has to be repaired at \$10,000; a water infiltration repair problem in the Corey building for \$12,500.00 and annual maintenance repair, that is, misc. projects, for \$25,000.0. He said these projects included painting the Robbins or Wilkins, and furniture that needs to be replaced. The final item was for Technology Replacement at \$80,000.

Mr. Hult encouraged the committee to look at long term planning, because he did not think the financial situation was going to be much better next year.

#### **Carlisle Public School – Budget**

Superintendent Marie Doyle was present with the FY09 Budget Presentation for the Carlisle Public School. She spoke briefly about the vision and mission statements and the core values of the school. Ms Doyle gave an overview of the accomplishments at the School. She provided a student achievement chart, that showed how the students compared with other communities. Ms Doyle then talked about Classroom size. A chart showed what the current class size was and then the sizes of future classrooms. Ms Doyle displayed a chart of the Administrative structure and the responsibilities of each of the following: the two principals,

Superintendent, Business Manager and Director of student services. Ms Doyle said that 84% of their expenses go to salaries, 8% to administration and 8% to clerical and custodial support.

Ms. Doyle then presented the actual number and percentage increases of the FY09 budget. She provided a list of tiered items totaling \$480,000 that the School would have to cut from their budget if they were forced to work with a level funded budget. Ms. Doyle then talked about the fees which are charged at the school as compared to those in neighboring communities. In conclusion, she said the impact of a level funded budget would mean a hardship on both the students and the staff. She asked for the Board's support.

Mr. Williams asked what 're-align' meant in the budget. It was explained that some costs are *estimated* in the spring for when school opens in the fall.

In reply to Mr. Tice, Ms Doyle said cuts were made at the Grade 6 level because it was based on the class size. The Board asked various questions about elementary world language.

In reply to Mr. Stevenson's questions about Special Education, Ms. Doyle, said there are 36 special education students. She explained that the special education is handled internally. She said they have a good structure at the school with a special education teacher who works with a team at grade level.

Mr. Hult said knowing that this was a tough question, he asked what on this list of potential cuts could be duly 'cut' and still maintain the character of the school? Ms. Doyle said that they originally started with a list that was over \$580,112. She said that they need all of these items on the list.

Mr. Carpenito commended the school for doing so well budget wise with the money they have had in the past. Mr. Hult thanked her for the extensive report.

### **Finance Committee /Long Term Capital Requirements**

#### **Budget Discussion – Review Warrant**

Finance Committee chair David Model, spoke to the Board about where the FinCom is today. He said they have reviewed the FY09 Budget and he wanted to compliment Larry Barton and Madonna McKenzie and the entire town-side for really stepping up and working with the FinCom to produce a *town-side* operating budget that actually met a zero increase. He said he also wanted to compliment the School Committee, because despite their difficulties, there is still a budget that works. He said he could not say the same for the Regional School because they went ahead with a standard increase. David said as it stands now, we have a net increase that does not include the assessment ratio changes of \$251,000 that we have to deal with in some fashion. The other area of concern was the unemployment cost obligation, which is approximately \$150,000.

David spoke about a scenario that the School Committee, LTCR and the FinCom have worked on for consideration. He said by taking \$80,000. from the Long Term Caps budget and \$45,000 from Free Cash and placing it in the School operating budget, between those two, this should enable the School to work at the top tier of their requests. He explained the philosophy behind this, which was that the School was due a technology oriented transfer from LTC, so the \$80,000 was already 'earmarked' in their budget. The Finance Committee supports this plan. Secondly, the \$45,000.00 for the Literacy specialist - this program is in its last year and the FinCom believed it was a wise decision to continue this program. David also spoke about \$110,000.00 for potential unemployment, coming out of the free cash. David said he believes you have to look at free cash first, but also noting that the Finance Committee is trying to be prudent. At the end they still believe they will have \$660,000 in free cash.

In regard to the \$251,000.00 for the Regional High School, David said the FinCom was of the opinion that it should be on an override. The reasoning behind this was because it would show the true cost of the budget to the voters. He said of course that means if it fails, we will have to either use free cash or go to a joint Town Meeting, or take funds from other budgets.

Nicole Burkel spoke about Special Education and out of district placements. She said the tuitions are set by the State and they increase every year, which makes it hard to predict the cost and budget for same. She said there is no negotiation in this area.

The Board decided to go through the Warrant at the next meeting scheduled on March 4, 2008.

### **Liaison Reports**

Mr. Stevenson spoke about the Carlisle Honor Roll Memorial Committee and their recommendations to

change the qualifications for being on the Honor Roll. Mr. Stevenson said the Committee approved the following changes to the qualifications. The Honor Roll will include the following: 1) all Carlisle residents who left from Carlisle to join active U.S. military units, 2) all current Carlisle residents who are on active duty in United States military units, 3) all current Carlisle residents, who have resided for 25 years or more in Carlisle who were on active duty in U.S. military before moving to Carlisle. On a motion made by Mr. Tice and seconded by Mr. Williams, it was unanimously **VOTED** to approve the Honor Roll changes as outlined by Mr. Stevenson.

Mr. Carpenito inquired about the Wilson-Andreassen memorials. Mr. Stevenson said the dedications will be made on Memorial Day.

### **Minutes**

The Minutes to the Board of Selectmen meeting of November 27, 2007 were approved as presented.

The Minutes to the Board of Selectmen meeting of December 11, 2007 were approved as presented.

### **Executive Session**

At 10:20 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Tice to into Executive Session, for the purpose of discussing litigation, and not to return to open. The motion was seconded by Mr. Williams and the following affirmative roll call vote was taken: Hult – aye; Tice – aye; Carpenito – aye; Williams – aye; and Stevenson – aye.

Respectfully submitted by Margaret deMare